

May 19, 1974

Dear Mom & Dad,

We saw the first firefly during our walk this evening. It is early as they don't usually appear until June. The weather has been warm - over 90°. Today it rained and was a lot cooler. Yesterday I played three sets of tennis with a friend and later Vickie and I ran a mile around the high school track. So, we are keeping in pretty good condition.

Our house is coming along pretty well and we should be in by the middle of June - just before we leave on our trip. Stahlgren sits between the Potomac and a tributary. We want to get a little sailboat to play around with. The other day I went sailing with a friend who has a 30 foot boat. It is peaceful out in the river except for the shells being fired from the range!

Two Sunday's ago we saw "The Mikado" at the Kennedy Center. I especially enjoyed it as I knew all the songs from the record set we had at home. There is a song in which the Executioner makes up "a little list of people we could do without". At the end he held up his hands in two V's to look like Nixon. This brought a lot of applause from the audience. Tomorrow we are going to see "The Marriage of Figaro".

You may remember some friends of ours that moved to Minneapolis. Since then they have moved to Chicago and the fellow stopped by on his way home from a business trip to Europe. A group of us went to the park for a picnic and had a good time. Sunday we took him to the airport and ran into a very heavy rainstorm. There was a tornado watch all day.

My talk to Adm Kidd went very well. There were six of us who gave talks. One guy was so nervous he couldn't hold the little model of a submarine he was trying to ^{talk about} hold. It was interesting for me to hear Adm Kidd who is very grumpy and makes a point of telling everyone how tough he is. I have been giving lots of briefs lately and there is another one this week. So, I'm really looking forward to a vacation. Vickie is too with only three weeks of school left.

We plan to go out to San Diego ~ June 19 then go up to Oxnard (where we stayed a couple of summers ago) and then to Monterey. From San Francisco we'll fly to Honolulu where I have a meeting. Then we will fly to Seattle and rent a car to drive down through Oregon back to S.F. for the flight home. I will be taking leave to go up to the cabin, etc. So if the plans stay good, we'll see you at that time ^{time} ~~place~~.